

Newark Human Rights Commission

Regular Monthly Meeting

Room B-21, City Hall

March 19, 1963

A G E N D A

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

A. Discussion: Police-Community Relations Advisory Board

2. Report on Business from January and February Commission Meetings.

3. Brief Reports from Professional Staff on Activities

4. Director's conferences with Mayor Addonizio

5. Annual Report for 1962

6. Preparations of Campaign against Blockbusters

7. South Side Expanded Opportunities project

8. New Business

AI Draft Agenda only
Change it or reduce it
as you wish.

Dan

The Question of a Police Advisory Board

Three weeks ago Martin Barol, attorney and executive secretary of Philadelphia's Police Advisory Board spoke in Newark. The meeting at St. Phillips church on High Street was attended by about 100 persons who had been invited to hear a discussion of the quaker City's experience over the past 5 years with its 8 member police-community relations panel.

In September and October of last year, C.O.R.E. waged a short but abortive campaign for such a ["]agency. The membership of CORE was disturbed over the Municipal Court's handling of an alleged case of Police Brutality. Because the case was soon to be appealed in the County court Director Spina was not willing to indulge in any discussion of this question.

When Assemblyman George Richardson and Dan Anthony interceded with CORE for the formation of a Police Advisory Board, the Mayor, Norman Schiff, Director Spina, Larrie Stalks and Sam Convisser had several meetings on the subject. In the last of these conferences the Mayor asked Spina, Schiff, Richardson and Anthony to put their heads together and come up with an acceptable group.

Although Ricahrdson and Anthony reminded Schiff on several occasions during October, November and December that time was fleeting by without the formation of a Police Advisory Board, nothing was done about it.

Feeling that the Administration had dropped the idea, Richardson arranged for the meeting at St. Phillip's Church, and once again the issue was opened when Anthony on ^{on} Friday, February 22, 1963 ^{MAN. Feb. 18. 1963} reminded Mayor Addonizio that six months had passed and no board had been formed.

The rest of the controversy is newspaper history, and we can only assume that most of you are aware of the campaign waged by various police organizations and Director Spina against the concept.

You have read only three articles in favor of a Police Board. They came from James A. Paxley, Director of the Urban League, Emil Oxfield, Director of the New Jersey American Civil Liberties Union and the Newark Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P.

Approximately 14 letters to the editor of the News (most of them from Policemen) were against it, and so far no letters have been printed by the News in favor of the idea.

I personally invited Director Spina to be with us tonight so that you might hear his arguments if he chose to speak to the question. Our staff and I are ready and willing to answer any questions you may have on this subject before you begin your discussion of this issue.